Date: August 28, 1996

Subject: Pollution Report for the Removal Action at the Ohio Drum Reconditioning Co. Inc. site, Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Ohio.

From: Joseph Fredle, OSC, Region V EERB, Westlake, OH.....(EPA-LAN)

To: E. Watkins, UESPA, OSWER, Wash.DC.....(EPA-LAN)
R. Karl, USEPA, Chief ERB, Chicago, IL.....(EPA-LAN)
J. El-Zein, USEPA, Chief, RS-1.....(EPA-LAN)
D. Regel, USEPA, ESS, Chicago, IL.....(EPA-LAN)
K. Chow, USEPA, ORC, Chicago, IL.....(EPA-LAN)
K. Clouse, Ohio EPA, Columbus, OH.....(fax 614-644-3250)
R. Beals, Ohio EPA, Twinsburg, OH.....(fax 216-487-0769)

POLREP NO. 1 (Initial)

II. BACKGROUND:

Site NO:	26
ERCS Delivery Order:	5001-05-660
Response Authority:	CERCLA
State Notification:	OEPA
Start Date:	08/12/96
Completion Date:	

III. SITE INFORMATION:

A. Incident Category CERCLA Incident Category: Abandoned Drum Reconditioning Facility

B. Site Description

1. Site Location: The Ohio Drum Reconditioning (Ohio Drum) site is located at 3697 W. Pearl Road, Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Ohio. Ohio Drum operated a drum washing, reconditioning, and recycling business on this site until 1981. Wastes removed from the drums were burned in one or possibly two incinerators located on site. A rinse water recycle pit used in the drum washing operations overflowed into a storm sewer. The storm sewer empties into a small tributary that flows through a swamp area and then into Big Creek. Big Creek is a tributary of the Cuyahoga River, which empties into Lake Erie.

2. Description of Threat: In the 1970's, state and federal officials became aware of discharges from the recycle pit, through the storm sewers and swamp area, into Big Creek. Analyses of these discharges, as well as soils from the site and the swamp area, revealed the presence of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), other organic compounds, phthalates, zinc, lead, and chromium. These compounds pose a direct contact threat to children from a nearby residential area and playground that play in the vicinity of the site.

C. Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection Results

In 1979, U.S. EPA conducted an unannounced inspection of the site, finding a visible plume of contaminants entering Big Creek. Samples taken during this inspection indicated that the Ohio Drum facility was discharging pollution to the tributary, swamp area, and Big Creek. Additional sampling was conducted by the U.S. EPA in 1980 which confirmed that ethylbenzene, xylene, styrene, naphthalene, and hydrocarbons were being discharged into the tributary and swamp area.

In April 1981, a contractor was hired by U.S. EPA to excavate a bypass ditch which would prevent water from flowing through the highly contaminated swamp area, leaching contaminants into Big Creek. An earthen berm was placed along the west and south sides of the swamp area to prevent contamination from entering Big Creek.

On March 5, 1991, a site inspection was conducted at the Ohio Drum site by members of the U.S. EPA Technical Assistance Team (TAT). Ten soil samples were collected from the site which revealed the presence of polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), PCBs, lead, and mercury. Open, rusted, and deteriorating drums were also observed at the site.

On March 30, 1991, the TAT returned to the site and conducted an extent of soil contamination study at the site using X-ray fluorescence (XRF). The in-situ XRF screening of the site indicated high levels of chromium, cadmium, and lead present in the site soils.

On March 3, 1993, the U.S. EPA Environmental Response Team (ERT) and members of the Response, Engineering, and Analytical Contract (REAC) collected additional samples from the swamp area. Results of this sampling indicated that the swamp area was highly contaminated with lead and PCBs, with levels as high as several thousand parts per million.

On March 29, 1996, U.S. EPA and a representative of the U.S. EPA Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) collected additional samples from the swamp area to confirm levels of PCBs. Nine soil samples were collected from the swamp and analyzed for PCB content. Results indicated PCB levels ranging from not detected to 303 parts per million.

IV RESPONSE INFORMATION:

A. Situation

1. Current Situation: CERCLA Removal Action initiated on August 12, 1996 to excavate and complete off-site disposal/recycling of PCB and lead contaminated soils at the site.

2. Removal Activities to Date: August 9, 1996 - ERCS Delivery Order 5001-05-660 issued to Environmental Quality Management, Inc. on July 31, 1996. OSC holds site organizational meeting with EQM and Samsel Services Company (Samsel) representatives. Site safety plan drafted.

August 12, 1996 - OSC, Samsel, and START onsite to begin removal of brush and debris from proposed work areas. Bulldozer utilized to remove trees, brush, and abandoned tires to begin creation of a roadway to the swamp area.

August 13, 1996 - Continued brush and debris removal onsite to clear roadway and proposed work areas.

August 14, 1996 - Continued brush and debris removal to clear roadway and proposed work areas. START completes collection of 13 soil samples to be analyzed by U.S. EPA for use in establishing XRF site-specific model for soil screening onsite.

August 15, 1996 - Continued brush and debris removal onsite. Activities suspended temporarily due to breakdown of contractor equipment.

August 28, 1996 - Completed brush and debris removal onsite. All personnel demobilized from the site pending completion of enforcement activities.

3. Enforcement:

U.S. EPA enforcement personnel continuing to attempt to locate potentially responsible parties to contribute to clean-up costs.

B. Next Steps

Begin soil excavation in swamp area.
Initiate off-site disposal of soil.

C. Key Issues

None.